



10.0756

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of :

RONALD ARTHUR FRANK : Examiner: Melvin C. Marcelo

Serial No.: 09/725,730 : Group Art Unit: 2663

Filed: November 29, 2000 :

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR :  
IN-SERVICE RECONFIGURATION OF A :  
SYNCHRONOUS COMMUNICATIONS :  
NETWORK

**TRANSMITTAL OF ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE  
WITH CONDITIONAL PETITION TO WITHDRAW ANY  
HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits herewith the Issue Fee for a large entity (\$1,400.00) and the Publication Fee (\$300.00) for the above-identified patent application. Applicant respectfully submits that the Issue Fee and Publication Fee are being submitted in a timely manner *since the Notice of Allowance dated August 13, 2004 was returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.* This is readily evidence from the attached print-out from the PAIR system. (See Exhibit 1) In further support, Applicants attach a copy of the relevant documents stamped "RECEIVED AUG 18 2004 Technology Center 2600." (See Exhibit 2)

Because the *returned* Notice of Allowance has *not been remailed*, the period running against the application has not begun:

Office actions are sometimes returned to the Office because the United States Postal Service has not been able to deliver them. *The examiner should use every reasonable means to ascertain the correct address and forward the action again, after stamping it 'remailed' with the date thereof redirecting it if there is any reason to believe that the action would reach applicant at the new address....The period running against the application begins with the date of remailing. Ex parte Gourtoff, 1924 C.D. 153, 329 O.G. 536 (Comm'r Pat. 1924)...If the period dating from the remailing elapses with no communication from applicant, the application is abandoned.*

See MPEP § 707.13, Rev. 2, May 2004 (See Exhibit 3).<sup>1</sup> See also, *Ex parte Gourtoff*, 1924 C.D. 153, 329 O.G. 536 (Comm'r Pat. 1924)

Alternatively, in the event that it is determined that the period for response has expired, Applicant hereby petitions under 37 CFR § 1.181 to withdraw any holding of abandonment. As MPEP § 711.03 (c)(I)(A) states, non-receipt of the original Notice of Allowance is sufficient basis to withdraw a holding of abandonment:

Under the reasoning of *Deglar*, an allegation that an Office action was never received may be considered in a petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment. If adequately supported, the Office may grant the petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment and remail the Office action.

See also, *Deglar v. Schulyer*, 172 USPQ 513 (D.D.C. 1971); and *In re Mentally Incompetent Attorney*, 182 USPQ 496, 497 (Comm'r Pat. 1974)(“[Deglar] allows the Patent Office to issue an

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<sup>1</sup> This version of the manual was in force at the time of the return of the Notice of Allowance.

applicant a new Notice of Allowance when the applicant does not receive the original notice of allowance...”)

There is no question that the Applicant did not receive the original Notice of Allowance as it was returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. (See Exhibit 1) Accordingly, any holding of abandonment should be withdrawn.

It is believed that no fees are due. However, should that determination be incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0562 and notify the undersigned in due course.

Date: 11/8/05

Respectfully submitted,



James J. Merek  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 32,158

MEREK, BLACKMON & VOORHEES, LLC  
673 South Washington Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-5633



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09/725,730 **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IN-SERVICE RECONFIGURATION OF A S COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

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This application is officially maintained in electronic form. To View: Click the desired Document. Print: Check the desired document(s) and click StartDownload.

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- Call the Patent Electronic Business Center at (866) 217-9197 (toll free) or e-mail [EBC](#) about Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR).
- Send general questions about USPTO programs to the [USPTO Contact Center \(UCC\)](#).
- If you experience technical difficulties or problems with this application, please report [Business Support](#) or call 1 800-786-9199.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,730	11/29/2000	Ronald Arthur Frank	RIDO-0015	9619
7590	08/13/2004		EXAMINER	
Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP			MARCELO, MELVIN C	
P.O. Box 747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747			2663	

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

**Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)**  
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 927 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 927 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590 08/13/2004

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

MARCELO, MELVIN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2663

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,730	11/29/2000	Ronald Arthur Frank	RIDO-0015	9619

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IN-SERVICE RECONFIGURATION OF A SYNCHRONOUS OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$665	\$300	\$965	11/15/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

## I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

## PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**

**Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**  
**or Fax (703) 746-4000**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

7590 08/13/2004

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

### Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (703) 746-4000, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,730	11/29/2000	Ronald Arthur Frank	RIDO-0015	9619

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IN-SERVICE RECONFIGURATION OF A SYNCHRONOUS OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$665	\$300	\$965	11/15/2004
EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS			
MARCELO, MELVIN C	2663	370-412000			

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).<br><input type="checkbox"/> Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.<br><input type="checkbox"/> "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required. | 2. For printing on the patent front page, list<br>(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,<br>(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. |
|---|---|

**3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)**

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent);  individual  corporation or other private group entity  government

**4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:**

- Issue Fee
- Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

**4b. Payment of Fee(s):**

- A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

**5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)**

- a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
- b. Applicant is not claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See, e.g., 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.  
NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**TRANSMIT THIS FORM WITH FEE(S)**

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/725,730	FRANK, RONALD ARTHUR	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Melvin Marcelo	2663	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to application filed 11-29-2000.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3.  The drawings filed on 20 November 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. "
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

Melvin Marcelo  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2663

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the particular method and system for reconfiguring the allocation of bandwidth used at transmit and receive nodes of a synchronous optical data communication network including the first and second memory banks in the first and second bandwidth configuration memories for holding and updating the bandwidth allocation mapping information used by the mapper/aggregator and demapper/deaggregator. With respect to the "Hamming Distance" of claims 5 and 13, this is described on page 6, line 25 of the specification and appears to be an inherent property of codewords as taught by Ntafos et al. ("On the Complexity of Some Coding Problems").

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin Marcelo whose telephone number is 703-305-4373. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau Nguyen can be reached on 703-308-5340. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Melvin Marcelo  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2663

August 8, 2004

<b>Notice of References Cited</b>		Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination	
		09/725,730	FRANK, RONALD ARTHUR	
Examiner		Art Unit 2663		Page 1 of 1

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-2003/0026298 A1	02-2003	Bisson et al.	370/537
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

**NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)			
*	U	S.C. Ntafos et al., 'On the Complexity of Some Coding Problems', IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, Vol II-27, No. 6, Nov. 1981, pages 794-796.			
	V				
	W				
	X				

\*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)  
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

3. In bracket 3, insert the days that you work every week, e.g. "Monday-Thursday" for an examiner off on alternate Fridays.
4. In brackets 4 and 5, insert your normal duty hours, e.g. "6:30 AM - 4:00 PM."
5. In bracket 6, insert the day in each pay-period that is your compressed day off, e.g. "Fridays" for an examiner on a 5/4/9 work schedule with the first Friday off.
6. In bracket 7, insert your SPE's name.
7. In bracket 8, insert your SPE's area code and phone number.

&lt;

After the action is typed, the examiner who prepared the action reviews it for correctness. The surname or initials of the examiner who prepared the action and the date on which the action was typed should appear below the action. If this examiner does not have the authority to sign the action, he or she should initial above the typed name or initials, and forward the action to the authorized signatory examiner for signing.

#### **707.09 Signing by Primary or Other Authorized Examiner**

Although only the original is signed, the word "Examiner" and the name of the signer should appear on the original and copies.

All Office actions and other correspondence should be signed promptly.

#### **707.10 Entry [R-2]**

The original, signed by the authorized examiner, is the copy which is placed in the file wrapper. The character of the action, its paper number and the date of mailing are entered in black ink on the outside of the file wrapper under "Contents." >For Image File Wrapper (IFW) processing, see IFW Manual section 3.7.<

#### **707.11 Date**

The mailing date should not be typed when the Office action is written, but should be stamped or printed on all copies of the action after it has been signed by the authorized signatory examiner and the copies are about to be mailed.

#### **707.12 Mailing [R-2]**

Copies of the examiner's action are mailed by the Technology Center after the original, initialed by the assistant examiner and signed by the authorized sig-

natory examiner, has been placed in the file. After the copies are mailed the original is returned for placement in the file. >For Image File Wrapper (IFW) processing, see IFW Manual section 3.7.<

#### **707.13 Returned Office Action [R-2]**

Office actions are sometimes returned to the Office because the United States Postal Service has not been able to deliver them. The examiner should use every reasonable means to ascertain the correct address and forward the action again, after stamping it "remailed" with the date thereof and redirecting it if there is any reason to believe that the action would reach applicant at such new address. If the Office action was addressed to an attorney, a letter may be written to the inventor or assignee informing him or her of the returned action. The period running against the application begins with the date of remailing. *Ex parte Gourtoff*, 1924 C.D. 153, 329 O.G. 536 (Comm'r Pat. 1924).

If the Office is not finally successful in delivering the letter, it is placed, with the envelope, in the file wrapper. >For an Image File Wrapper (IFW), a copy of the letter, and a copy of the envelope should be added to the IFW (see IFW Manual).< If the period dating from the remailing elapses with no communication from applicant, the application is abandoned.

#### **708 Order of Examination [R-2]**

Nonprovisional applications filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and accepted as complete applications are assigned for examination to the respective examining Technology Centers (TCs) having the classes of inventions to which the applications relate. Nonprovisional applications shall be taken up for examination by the examiner to whom they have been assigned in the order in which they have been filed except for those applications in which examination has been advanced pursuant to 37 CFR 1.102. See 37 CFR 1.496 and MPEP § 1893.03 for the order of examination of international applications in the national stage, including taking up out of order certain national stage applications which have been indicated as satisfying the criteria of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) as to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.

Applications which have been acted upon by the examiner, and which have been placed by the applicant in condition for further action by the examiner